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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*Docket # 99-11*

**CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE  
STATEMENT OF TESTIMONY  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
HEARING**

**BO Docket No. 99-11**

**C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority, P.O. Box 810, Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625 submits the following discussion points that it will cover in detail during the Federal Communications Commission hearing on March 23, 1999 in Chandler, Arizona.**

- 1. Federal portion of universal service support should be 100 percent. Universal service support should be based upon the cost of serving Indian reservations. With penetration rates on Indian reservations averaging 40 %, there has to be an incentive for operating telecommunication companies to make the huge investment.**
- 2. A specific allocation of spectrum needs to be made for the benefit of Indian Country. Indian Tribes have not been involved in the world of technology and there are specific cases that wireless technology will work, the Saddleback Communications is a prime example on the Salt River Reservation in Arizona. A majority of Indian Country has not been able to be involved in the recent spectrum auctions for many reasons and have been virtually by-passed. The consideration of spectrum allocation or the granting of a waiver process needs to be implemented.**
- 3. A continuance of hardship funds under the Rural Utilities Service ( RUS ) that is specific in nature to Indian reservations. All telephone companies will be able to make serious considerations of plant investment into these unserved areas. The RUS program has seen pressure upon this program based on the fact that urban America believes that RUS has completed its mission.**
- 4. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 applies across the board to all companies in America. Our company has purchased three U.S. West telephone exchanges in 1994 and we still have not received ownership. We have filed under provisions of the Telecommunication Act of 1996 in regards to barriers of competition and it has been sitting with the FCC for over a year. FCC action needs to be timely. With the Consolidated Telephone vs. Western Wireless Inc. case only 160 miles to the north, the FCC has promised a rocket docket to guarantee competition.**
- 5. CRSTTA promotes service affordability within Indian Country. Affordability comes into jeopardy with the FCC reviewing Access Charge Reform and the proposal to shift the Carrier Common Line element to the local portion. Our reservation has an unemployment rate nearing the 60 % level yeararound, as local rates increase, these people will not be able to afford local service.**

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